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The cases cited are well selected, and include the latest decisions. Unfortunately, however, two very important recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court and the New York Court of Appeals, which might have influenced the author's views, were not reported in time for citation and comment. See *Prentiss v. Atlantic Coast Line R. R.* (211 U. S. 210) and *People ex rel. Metropolitan R. R. Receivers v. Public Service Commission* (N. Y. L. J., March 4, 1909.) In the last two pages there are some insinuations of executive usurpation by President Roosevelt which seem out of place in an essay otherwise scientific and impartial.

G. C.

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THE CONTROL OF PUBLIC UTILITIES. By William M. Ivins and Herbert Delavan Mason. New York: Baker, Voorhis and Company. 1908. pp. lxxix, 1149. 8vo.

The annotation of a statute within a year of its passage is a task that would deter one of less courage than Mr. Ivins. It is true that many of the decisions under the Interstate Commerce Act are more or less apt. The rather ample size of this book has, however, been attained by a considerable amount of skillful padding. A general index in large type of 206 pages, an index, of 73 pages, to the Interstate Commerce Law, which itself, together with the Elkins Act, fills only 30 pages, and an index of 64 pages to the Rapid Transit Act, itself occupying only 68 pages, account for a considerable portion of this amplitude. In 669 pages the authors have endeavored to annotate the Public Service Commissions Law of New York with decisions rendered in construing the federal commerce acts, and with a large bulk of miscellaneous matter, some of which is pertinent, and much of which might well be dispensed with. The book is consequently a kind of digest centered around the Public Service Commissions Law.

F. W. B.

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THE MYSTERY OF THE PINCKNEY DRAUGHT. By Charles C. Nott. New York: The Century Company. 1908. pp. 334. 8vo.

Charles Pinckney of South Carolina presented a draught of a constitution to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. This draught was referred to the Committee of the Whole and later to the Committee on Detail. No copy of this draught was found with the papers and records of the Convention. In 1818 John Quincy Adams, then Secretary of State, requested Pinckney to supply a copy. In response to this request Pinckney furnished a copy which he stated to be the one of several rough draughts in his possession which he believed he had presented to the Convention. After Pinckney's death Madison, in commenting on this copy, cast doubts on its authenticity and stated that he believed it to be impossible that it was a correct copy. His position was based largely on the fact that the copy differed in several respects from the policies advocated by Pinckney before the Convention. Madison's attitude has hitherto been accepted with little dissent. The present author considers Madison's objections in detail and examines minutely the positions taken by Pinckney in debate and in print. Every statement of Madison is met, and the author reaches the conclusion that the copy furnished by Pinckney was in all essential particulars a true copy of the draught presented to the Convention. Furthermore he states that in all probability the draught was used by the Committee on Detail as the groundwork from which they built up their report, and its disappearance he accounts for on the assumption that it was used as printer's copy by the Committee. His conclusions are well supported by the facts which a careful search has disclosed, and his deductions seem well founded. To those who are interested in the historical evolution of the Constitution of the United States the book will warrant careful consideration, and later commentators on the Constitution must ponder long before they adopt a view unfavorable to the Pinckney draught as evidenced by the copy preserved among the archives of the State Department.

J. S. S.

- A TREATISE ON GUARANTY INSURANCE AND COMPENSATED SURETYSHIP.  
By Thomas Gold Frost. Second Edition, Enlarged and Revised.  
Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1909. pp. liv, 802. 8vo.
- THE CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY OF LUNATICS. By Heinrich Oppenheimer.  
London: Sweet and Maxwell, Limited. 1909. pp. vi, 275.
- A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF INSOLVENT AND FAILING CORPORATIONS.  
By S. Walter Jones. Kansas City, Mo.: Vernon Law Book Company.  
1908. pp. xxv, 1011.
- THE LAW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS. By L. A. Atherley Jones  
and Hugh H. L. Dellot. With an introduction by Herbert Gladstone.  
London: Butterworth and Company. 1909. pp. xxv, 380.